

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

2 APR. 1962

~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Syrian revolt

The rebellion of pro-UAR elements in northern Syria against the new regime is still going on. If it is not quelled soon by force or negotiations it could spread into civil war. The government has indicated its willingness to submit to a plebiscite the issue of union with the UAR. Damascus may deliberately create an incident with Israel in an attempt to unite the people behind the government, while the risk of Israeli intervention will increase if pro-Nasir elements appear to be succeeding.

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2. Berlin

a. The US Military Liaison Mission in East Germany has been placed under heavy Soviet guard. Marshal Konev has asked General Clarke to meet him on Thursday. The latter has accepted and, on General Norstad's advice, has withheld retaliatory action until after the meeting.

b. No Soviet flights were scheduled in the corridors for today or over the weekend--the longest period with no flights since they were started on 8 February.

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3. Argentina

President Guido's regime is still not out of the woods. The UCRI--Frondizi's party, which controls both houses of Congress--by announcing its loyalty to Frondizi and opposition to the Guido government has in effect terminated its agreement with the military to support legislation designed to weaken Peronist and labor elements. This could lead to new action by the military or to new elections, which the UCRI had previously hoped to defer until 1964.

4. West New Guinea

Declaring that a new stage of increased activity had been reached in the West New Guinea campaign, the Indonesian Defense Minister has announced three new landings on the West New Guinea coast. Indonesian troops that infiltrated Gag Island--now the object of Dutch mopping-up operations--are asking desperately for sea and air support. The Dutch deny Indonesian press reports that Waigeo has been liberated.

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5. Ecuador

a. President Arosemena

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[redacted]
[redacted] is [redacted] ready to
break [redacted] not only with Cuba, but
Czechoslovakia and Poland as well.
A cabinet reshuffle to strengthen
support for domestic reforms may,
with the expected break with Cuba, set
off new demonstrations by both rightist
and leftist extremists.

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b. The US Consulate General in
Quito was stoned on Saturday and the
guard on duty was beaten.

6. Algeria

a. The US Consul General in
Algiers feels that it would not be
surprising if there is retaliation
against the consulate for US gestures
toward the Algerian leaders.

b. French officials in Algeria
are concerned over the safety of the
provisional executive due to the limited
number of reliable bodyguards. Sporadic
OAS terrorist activity continues.

7. Laos

a. Sullivan's week-end talks with Souvanna, Souphannouvong and the Soviet ambassador covered some new ground which might provide a new basis for talks with Phoumi, but the situation is still pretty much on dead center. All three agreed that the US must withhold military aid from Phoumi to force him to negotiate. Souvanna reiterated his previous promises to avoid military moves if the US showed signs of putting real pressure on Phoumi, but Souphannouvong

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was more threatening.

He insisted that Phoumi had augmented his forces "behind Pathet Lao lines" and that he would have to remove the menace posed by this augmentation.

b. Souvanna is soon off to Paris, not by way of Washington.

8. Soviet press attacks on President's statements

Recent Soviet press articles attacking President Kennedy's statements in the Alsop article, are another manifestation of Moscow's compulsion to react to any US statement which suggests American military superiority or that implies a threat against the USSR. This is the first time that the Soviets have teed off directly against the President with charges usually reserved for "Pentagon brass."

NOTES

- A. The atmosphere of the Adoula-Tshombé talks appears friendly if unproductive. Ambassador Gullion considers the situation still "mercurial." Tshombé's absence from Leopoldville has caused a serious deterioration of administrative efficiency in Elisabethville. 50X1
- B. Venezuelan Communists and leftist military officers are supposed to be planning to make a coup against Betancourt [redacted]. Most high ranking officers are believed loyal, and we doubt that a major outbreak is likely at present. 50X1
- C. South Vietnam, in response to a Cambodian invitation, is organizing an inspection team to investigate areas in Cambodia suspected of being used by the Viet Cong.
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DOCUMENT OF INTEREST

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE